

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 031712Z NOV 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3330

S E C R E T GENEVA 8704

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM SCHAUFEELE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RH UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN CONFERENCE: NOV 3 MEETING WITH MOSAMBICANS

1. I CALLED ON MONTEIRO, THE MOZAMBICAN MINISTER OF STATE, THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 3. MONTEIRO SAID THE CONFERENCE WAS GOING VERY WELL. HE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED BY THE FACT THE DELEGATIONS WERE TAKING THE SAME POSITIONS ON BASIC ISSUES AND THEREBY DENYING SMITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO DIVIDE THEM. HE PLANS TO RETURN TO MOZAMBIQUE SHORTLY BUT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO REJOIN HIS DELEGATION AT THE CONFERENCE.

2. MONTEIRO AGREED THAT THE BASIC OBJECTIVE OF THE CONFERENCE WAS TO FORM AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT. IT IS ESSENTIAL, HE ARGUED, TO MAKE A BREAK WITH THE PAST AND BEGIN TO SEPARATE RHODESIA'S EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FROM SMITH AND HIS POLITICAL COHORTS. ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES OF THE PROCESS WAS TO CREATE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH EUROPEANS COULD JOIN THE "COMMUNITY OF AFRICANS". MOZAMBIQUE'S EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT HIM THAT A SHORT RATHER THAN A LONG PERIOD OF TRANSITION WOULD BE IN ZIMBABWE'S INTEREST. THE LONGER THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD LASTS, THE HARDER IT IS FOR EUROPEANS TO REALIZE THEY MUST MAKE A NEW HOME FOR THEMSELVES AND FACE NEW REALITIES. A LONG

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TRANSITION PERIOD GIVES LICENSE TO UNHELPFUL STATEMENTS

LIKE THAT WHICH SUTTON-PRICE WAS ALLEGED TO HAVE MADE. EQUALLY PROLONGED TRANSITION ENCOURAGES "ECONOMIC SABOTAGE". COMPANIES DO NOT MAKE INVESTMENT DECISIONS NOR RENEW THEIR STOCKS AND RAW MATERIALS.

3. MOZAMBIQUE HAD LEARNED THAT EVEN A 9 MONTH INTERREGNUM WAS UNHELPFUL. FRELIMO HAD EXPECTED TO LEARN TECHNICAL GOVERNMENT SKILLS FROM THE PORTUGUESE ADMINISTRATION; THAT DID NOT HAPPEN. IN SHORT, THE CHANCES OF STABILITY ARE GREATER IF THE PERIOD OF TRANSITION IS SHORT.

4. I REPLIED THAT WHILE I UNDERSTOOD THE MOZAMBIQUE EXPERIENCE AND THE VALUE IT PLACES ON SHORT TRANSITION, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER SMITH HAD A POLITICAL CONSTITUENCY HE HAD TO SATISFY. BY CONTINUING TO IMPOSE PRECONDITIONS, THE AFRICANS MAY WELL RUN THE RISK OF UNDERMINING SMITH'S ABILITY TO BRING HIS EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ALONG. I FELT THAT THE RAPID FORMATION OF AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT WOULD CHANGE ATTITUDES IN AN IMPORTANT WAY. WE HAD SUPPORTED THIS OBJECTIVE FOR PRECISELY THE SAME REASON WE HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT AN OPEN-ENDED CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE.

5. MONTEIRO PRESSED ME QUITE HARD ON WHAT ROLE THE BRITISH WOULD PLAY DURING THE TRANSITION AND SAID THAT HE WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED NO MOVE WAS MADE WHICH WOULD "LEGITIMIZE" THE SMITH REGIME; AND I TOLD HIM NEITHER WE NOR THE BRITISH HAD ANYTHING LIKE THAT IN MIND. I RECOMMENDED THAT IF THE AFRICANS WANTED THE BRITISH TO PLAY A USEFUL ROLE DURING TRANSITION THEY SHOULD MAKE THEIR POINT AT OFFICIAL LEVELS AND DESIST FROM PINNING THE BRITISH DOWN IN PUBLIC. MONTEIRO AGREED WITH MY POINT.

6. MONTEIRO BARELY MENTIONED, AND THEN ONLY IN PASSING, THE RHODESIAN INCURSIONS INTO MOZAMBIQUE. HE REPORTED HE HAD BEEN ON THE PHONE WITH MAPUTO ON NOV 2 AND AGAIN THIS MORNING.

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7. THE MOZABICAN MINISTER STRESSED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTEREST IN A PROTRACTED ARMED STRUGGLE IN RHODESIA. THE ONLY REASON FOR THE ARMED STRUGGLE WAS TO ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE. ONCE RHODESIA WAS CLEARLY ON THE PATH TO THAT GOAL, THE ARMED STRUGGLE SHOULD CEASE.

8. MONTEIRO WAS ALERT, ARTICULATE AND EVEN THOUGH
HE BROKE NO NEW GROUND HE SEEMED PLEASED TO HAVE
A CHANCE TO DISCUSS HIS VIEWS WITH US. HE MADE
A POINT OF ASKING THAT CONTACT BE MAINTAINED.
BRITISH TELL ME THAT THEY HAD EQUALLY REASONABLE
MEETING WITH HIM THIS MORNING.CATTO

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, INTERIM GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MEETING REPORTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 11/03/76
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GENEVA08704
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840084-0616
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761187/aaaacxai.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIAN CONFERENCE: NOV 3 MEETING WITH MOSAMBICANS
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, US, MZ, RH, UK, (SCHAUFLE, WILLIAM E JR), (MONTEIRO, JOSE OSCAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006